(c) The approval of Planning Commission for raising Bonds for DOT/DTS and MTNL for the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is as furnished below:

(Rs. in crores).

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
DOT	2741.00	2291.00	977.63
MTNL	447.15	730.00	1180.00

(d) The dividend and tax paid by MTNL to Government during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is as furnished below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Dividend (Rs. in crores)	Tax Paid (Advance Paid)
1997-98	78.87	507.67
1998-99	114.63	643
1999-2000	106.31	598

Long Distance Telecom Services

962. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open long distance Telecom Services for competition;

(b) if so, whether it would drastically reduce the investible surplus of Department of Telecom Services and gradually push it towards sickness;

(c) whether it will reduce the valuation of DTS, which is likely to be corporatized;

(d) whether it will then defeat one of the important reasons for corporatizing the DTS; and

(e) what particular steps Government have in mind to avoid the

above pitfalls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes Sir, to some extent due to reduction in the market share of its long distance traffic.

(c) and (d) Valuation may reduce in the short term. It may, however, improve with traffic growth.

(e) Department of Telecom Services plan to enter new services may generate additional revenue.

Rajyotsava Telephone Scheme in Bangalore

963. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons registered for telephones in Bangalore City under the Rajyotsava Scheme introduced in November 1999;

(b) out of which, how many of them have been given telephone connection so far;

(c) by when the others will get the connections; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to introduce similar scheme in November 2000 on the occasion of Rajyotsava?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, 92,120 persons registered for telephone connection in Bangalore City under the Rajyostava Scheme introduced in November 1999.

(b) 62,663 registrants out of 92,120 have been provided telephone connections so far.

(c) Efforts are afoot to provide telephone connections to the remaining applicants progressively by March 2001.

(d) Currently there is no proposal.